

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method of measuring a protein in a liquid sample that also contains creatinine, the method comprising:

a step of mixing a quantity of the liquid sample with a protein measurement indicator to form a first liquid system in which the protein and the creatinine react with the protein measurement indicator, wherein the protein measurement indicator is a xanthene dye or a triphenylmethane dye;

a step of obtaining a first response value that reflects a protein concentration in the ~~first liquid-system~~ sample, based on coloring of the protein measurement indicator caused by a reaction between the protein and the protein measurement indicator under influence of a reaction between the creatinine and the protein measurement indicator;

a step of preparing another quantity of the liquid sample ~~as a second liquid-system~~ that does not contain the protein measurement indicator;

a step of obtaining a second response value that reflects a creatinine concentration in the ~~second~~ another quantity of the liquid-system sample; and

a step of calculating a protein concentration in the liquid sample, by using the first response value and the second response value, for eliminating a measurement error caused by the reaction between the creatinine and the protein measurement indicator in the first liquid system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining the second response value includes calculation of an error level included in the

first response value, which is caused by the reaction between the creatinine and the protein measurement indicator, by using the second response value;

the step of calculating the protein concentration includes calculation of a non-corrected protein concentration as a preliminary value from the first response value, and calculation of a corrected final protein concentration by subtracting the error level from the preliminary value.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the error level in the step of obtaining the second response value is calculated by using a predetermined calibration curve;

the calibration curve being prepared in advance by measuring, in accordance with a dye binding method or a protein error method, response values with a plurality of known liquid samples each including protein of an identical concentration and creatinine of a different concentration from that of all other known liquid samples, and then obtaining correlation between the response values and the creatinine concentrations.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein in the step of calculating the protein concentration in the liquid sample, a corrected response value of the first response value is obtained by using the measured first response value and the second response value, and the protein concentration in the liquid sample is calculated by using the corrected response value,

wherein the corrected response value is calculated by using an arithmetic expression derived from a plurality of sample groups;

each sample group consisting of a plurality of known liquid samples including the protein of an identical concentration and the creatinine of a different concentration from that of all other known liquid samples in the sample group, and

the sample group including protein of different concentrations from that of all known liquid samples in other sample groups, and

the arithmetic expression being derived from a method comprising:

a step of measuring a response value for each of the known liquid samples in each sample group;

a step of obtaining a relationship between the response values obtained from the known liquid samples and the creatinine concentrations in each sample group as relational expression for all of the sample groups in a form of linear expression; and
a step of obtaining a relationship between a gradient in each of the relational expressions and the response value from the known liquid sample having a specific creatinine concentration in each sample group, in the form of relational expression.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the first response value is obtained in accordance with a first protein measurement procedure provided by a dye binding method or a protein error method.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the second response value is obtained in accordance with an enzyme method, Jaffe method, a copper chelate oxidation method, a palladium complex competition method, or Benedict method.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein in the step of calculating the protein concentration, the protein concentration is calculated by using a predetermined calibration curve;

the calibration curve being made in advance by a method including:

a step of obtaining a plurality of responses from a plurality of known liquid samples by the first protein measurement procedure; and

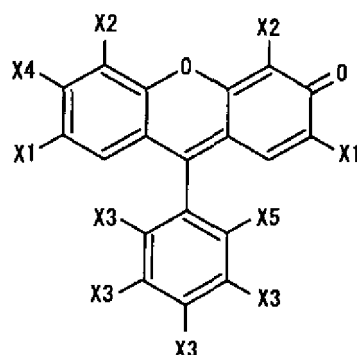
a step of measuring a plurality of protein concentrations in the known liquid samples by a second protein measurement procedure, which is less susceptible to creatinine influence than the first protein measurement procedure; the calibration curve representing relation between the responses obtained by the first protein measurement procedure and the protein concentrations measured by the second protein measurement procedure.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the second protein measurement procedure comprises an immunoturbidimetric method, immunolateral agglutination method or ternary complex method.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the xanthene dye is a halogenated xanthene dye that has a chemical structure expressed in following Chemical Formula 1;

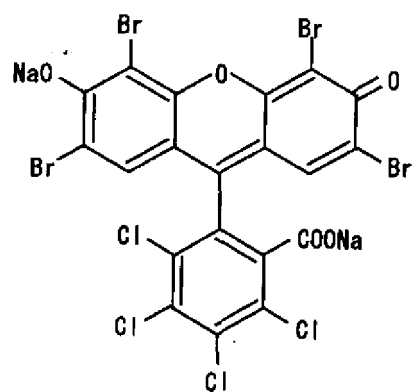
Chemical Formula 1



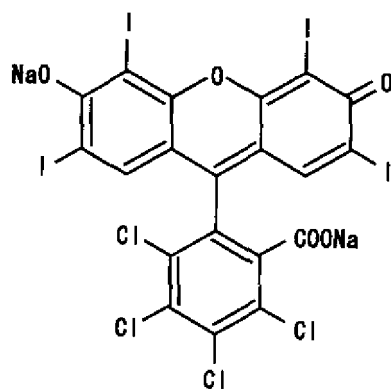
wherein in Chemical Formula 1, X1 represents a halogen, a nitro group or a nitroso group, X2 represents a halogen, X3 represents a halogen or hydrogen, X4 represents a hydroxyl group or its salt, and X5 represents a carboxyl group or its salt.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the halogenated xanthene dye has ~~a~~ at least one chemical structure selected from the group consisting of the structures represented by ~~a formula selected from~~ following Chemical formulas 2 through 6:

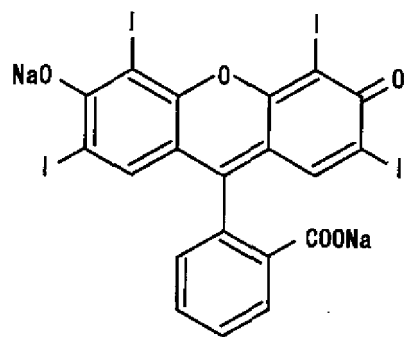
Chemical Formula 2



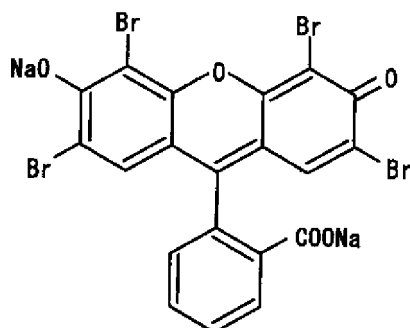
Chemical Formula 3



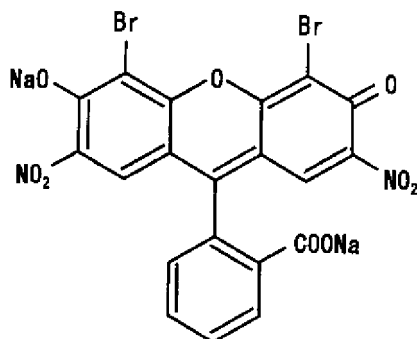
Chemical Formula 4



Chemical Formula 5



Chemical Formula 6



14. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The method according to claim 4+2, wherein the triphenylmethane dye is Tetrabromophenol Blue (TBPB), Bromochlorophenol Blue (BCPB) or Bromophenol Blue (BPB).

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the protein measurement indicator is held in a carrier in a dried form until being exposed to the liquid sample.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the protein is albumin.

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17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the liquid sample is urine, blood, or cerebrospinal fluid.